



Early Childhood  
Australia

New South Wales Branch



# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Carol Burgess,  
ECA NSW President**



### **Acknowledgement of Country**

*Early Childhood Australia NSW acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the original inhabitants of Australia and recognises their culture as part of the cultural heritage of all Australians. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been nurturing and teaching children on this land for thousands of years.*

Early Childhood Australia (ECA) has been a voice for young children since 1938. We are the peak early childhood advocacy organisation, acting in the interests of young children, their families and those in the early childhood field. ECA advocates to ensure quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to the education and care of children aged birth to eight years.

We would like to thank you all for your valued work for all the children, families and communities across NSW during the challenging period we have been experiencing. We began 2020 in a situation never before experienced with Australia in the grips of drought, fires and later floods. Throughout these catastrophes communities came together, marshalling their efforts and helping each other. Before many communities have had the time to recover, we have found ourselves plunged into a pandemic. Our hearts go out to all who have been infected by COVID-19 and those whose lives have been disrupted by this pandemic. We are particularly concerned about the significant impacts this pandemic is likely to have on our early childhood and education and care programs, including educators, families, and children.

Here at ECA NSW we advocate for and promote the specific needs and interests of NSW members through state based initiatives, branch regional groups and communication with national office. This broad commitment to advocacy is done in part by supporting and attending meetings, roundtables, forums, seminars etc. and by working collaboratively with those involved in all aspects of early childhood education and care, especially during this challenging period in all our lives.

During 2019 and into 2020 ECA NSW Branch has been actively represented on early childhood reference groups, consultation groups and through group discussions. These collaborations and information exchanges are an ideal opportunity to advocate on behalf of children, families and educators. We closely collaborate with the Early Childhood Education Directorate in the NSW Department of Education and we thank them for providing us with funding that is used to specifically support our community advocacy.

During the past year ECA NSW has been involved with many committees, early childhood organisations and groups who work to achieve quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to the education and care of children.

During 2019 the NSW Executive and the Branch Regional Groups have held various Conversation Evenings, workshops and forums across different venues in NSW. Our Regional Groups (we are setting up a new group in Bathurst to meet the needs of the Central West) have been offering events in their regions that meet the specific needs of that region. The dispersion of such events throughout our Regional Groups allows us to meet and engage with members on a broader scale than would otherwise be practicable.

ECA NSW also provides scholarships for people to attend the ECA National Conference. For the 2019 Conference in Hobart we supported four scholarships of \$2000.00 each.

We are also still proud supporters of the NSW Premier's Teacher Scholarships. These scholarships provide teachers with an opportunity to explore their field of expertise by visiting some of the world's most highly acclaimed schools and centres for teaching and learning. The scholarships are a career changing experience for the successful teachers, with benefits from the program felt throughout NSW.

Advocacy is also carried out by you, individual ECA members in your professional and personal activities when you make and take opportunities to promote the wellbeing of children, their families and ECA values and principles in general. We are certainly seeing a new appreciation right across Australian society for your important role as teachers and educators.

Your membership of Early Childhood Australia enhances our capacity to be a strong voice for children. Each act of advocacy makes a difference.

***Thank you to all those Branch members, Regional Representatives and the Executive Committee who have assisted with the work of the Branch over the past twelve months. Your contributions to, and support of, the work of ECA NSW is both valued and appreciated.***

# TREASURER'S REPORT

**Nan Greig,**  
**ECA NSW Treasurer**

Early Childhood Australia (NSW) remained in a strong financial position throughout 2019. Our income for 2019 was substantially higher than the previous year with the two largest contributors to income being \$109,470 from the 2018 ECA National Conference (Sydney) and \$88,288 in membership subscriptions received during this period. Operating expenses during this year were \$154,691 resulting in an overall operating surplus of \$182,647 for 2019.

Income from the ECA conference represents a substantial boost to our financial position. ECA were also able to secure a grant of \$32,038 from the NSW State Government under the Start Strong Special Pathways Program. Our grant from NSW Department of Education allows us to continue to ensure our members are informed of government policy, funding arrangements and upcoming programs.

ECA NSW's strong financial position allows us to continue to support the work of the Branch and regional groups. ECA has demonstrated our commitment to remote and regional areas with the provision of scholarships to the ECA National Conference and supporting regional groups through an operational donation based upon the number of members within each regional area.

Our strong financial position gives us the flexibility to meet emerging needs within the sector. We are mindful the funding environment is uncertain and can impact the sustainability of the branch, so a positive financial position is desirable. Should our funding be removed this would impact greatly on the bottom line. ECA NSW have ensured that we have kept our operating expenses to a minimum with our virtual office and no permanent staff.

With the aim of greater financial risk management, the NSW branch committee reviewed all financial policies during the year and agreed to a centralised banking approach for all Branch and regional groups. All ECA NSW bank accounts are now held with Bendigo Bank.

During 2019, ECA NSW continued to operate under a finance committee to support the treasurer's position. The committee comprises of Nan Greig (Treasurer), Natalie Grenfell, Ian Alchin and Anita Jovanovski.

The Executive will continue to support projects as appropriate.

This is a simplified copy of the Balance Sheet and the Revenue Account. The full audited statements are available to members on request to the Branch email or at the Branch AGM.

**Principal activity:** The principal activity of the association during the financial year was advocacy for children from birth to 8 years through involvement with many other committees and groups who work to achieve quality, social justice and equity in all issues relating to the education and care of children. ECA NSW is involved in supporting submissions to government, attending meetings, roundtables, forums etc. of such early childhood organisations. We aim to be accessible to our members through informative conversations evenings, workshops, seminars, conferences and member 'get togethers'.

## BALANCE SHEET

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Cash	454,418	279,067
Receivables	10,762	14,861
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$465,180</b>	<b>\$293,928</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Creditors	13,474	24,869
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$13,474</b>	<b>\$24,869</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$451,706</b>	<b>\$269,059</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained surplus	451,706	269,059
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$451,706</b>	<b>\$269,059</b>

## INCOME & EXPENDITURE

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Grants: NSW DET EC Policy	32,038	32,038
Membership subscriptions received	104,143	84,492
Conferences	88,288	54,965
Interest received	3,399	3,175
Regional activities	-	635
National Conference income	109,470	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$337,338</b>	<b>\$175,305</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Administration	24,632	13,450
Services	10,767	7,754
Seminars, meetings & presentations	36,781	44,498
Contract staff expenses	37,800	43,350
Scholarships	-	5,981
Conferences	44,711	35,868
Regional activities	-	481
Projects	-	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$154,691</b>	<b>\$151,382</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$182,647</b>	<b>\$23,923</b>

## ECA NSW BRANCH

### BRANCH EXECUTIVE

President: Carol Burgess  
Vice President: Natalie Grenfell  
Secretary: Tracey Dooner  
Treasurer: Nan Greig

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ian Alchin  
Chris Legg  
(National President, ECA)  
Gabby Holden  
Anita Jovanovski  
Marina Papic  
(National Board Director)  
Jan Langtry

### CONTACT

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### REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Far North Coast:  
Katie Pennant  
  
Mid North Coast:  
Rebecca Minter  
  
Central Coast:  
Selma Wastell  
  
New England:  
Tracey Dooner  
  
Riverina:  
Tracey Snow  
  
Hunter & Newcastle:  
Amanda Holt  
  
Illawarra & South Coast:  
Linda Windley



Carol Burgess, ECA NSW President (centre) pictured with the 2019 ECA National Conference Scholarship winners.